

CITY OF NEWBURGH ARTS & CULTURE FORUM

Held on Monday, September 20, 2004

MEETING REPORT SUMMARY

Introduction

In August 2004 Jean-Ann McGrane, the City Manager of the City of Newburgh, announced plans to host a brainstorming session to focus on the role that arts and culture can play in redeveloping Newburgh and uniting its citizens. Sponsored by the City of Newburgh, the Citizens Foundation of Orange County, Arts in Orange, Orange Arts, and the Newburgh Free Library, this "Arts and Culture Forum" was set for 6-9PM on Monday, September 20, 2004 at the Newburgh Free Library.

This meeting was a follow-up to a series of meetings that took place in the fall of 2003 as part of the county-wide cultural needs assessment commissioned by Orange County Citizens Foundation and the Orange County Executive's Office with support from Assemblyman Howard Mills. The goal of the needs assessment project was to identify priority issues to be resolved to develop the arts, culture and history of Orange County. One of the key recommendations that came out of this project was the development of a Cultural Action Plan for Orange County. The City of Newburgh hoped that the September 20th meeting would be the first step in developing an action plan for Newburgh, leading to similar meetings elsewhere in the County.

To develop the attendance list for this initial meeting, City of Newburgh staff spoke with numerous artists, educators, gallery and art-related business owners, church and school groups and representatives from local arts councils to compile a list of representatives from arts, civic and community groups who could represent the interests of Newburgh's various arts and culture communities in an initial meeting. The meeting invitation list was limited to 100 people to permit every person to have a voice in the meeting by participating in one of five organized breakout sessions .

The Arts and Culture Forum was attended by 82 community representatives, whose names are attached as a separate document. Ms. McGrane launched the brainstorming session with the following remarks:

I strongly believe that the energy of the arts can move a community into a new realm, and through the language of the arts, the many diverse elements in a community can be pulled together. Newburgh is a unique among the Hudson River communities because of its history and its diversity. I believe that we can draw on the strength of our diversity to create a new model for what an urban city

can be. One of the ways that we can do that is harness the energy of all of the creative people who are doing things in Newburgh—including all of you who are here tonight.

The goals of tonight's meeting are:

- *To develop a vision for the future of the City of Newburgh that features arts and culture as a cornerstone in the redevelopment of our city.*
- *To present the range of possible arts and cultural activities, facilities and programs that can improve the quality of life and stimulate cultural and economic development of our city.*
- *To stimulate interest in collaborative projects that will maximize benefits to artists, arts groups and the public.*
- *To explore how arts and culture can be used as a vehicle for uniting our city.*

This is just the first in what we hope will be a series of meetings focused on the role that arts and culture can play in redeveloping Newburgh and uniting its citizens.

Tonight's meeting will consist primarily of breakout meetings in which each of you will have the opportunity to voice your vision for Newburgh's cultural future and your thoughts about how we can make that vision happen.

Based on the results of numerous reports, we know that the presence of arts and culture has a profound impact on city neighborhoods. Some of you may have read the article called "Performing Miracles," which was recommended as background reading for this meeting. This article reports that neighborhoods in Philadelphia that had an active arts scene were nearly three times more likely to see their poverty rates decline and populations increase and were four times more likely to have low student delinquency and truancy rates.

The arts have really turned things around in other cities, and we believe the arts can do the same thing for Newburgh by reaching out to both the youth and adults of our city. This forum and what comes out of it can serve as a stepping-stone to making Newburgh one of the most exciting cities in the country.

Breakout Sessions

In the breakout sessions that comprised the main part of the meeting, participants spent well over an hour discussing three questions related to their personal vision for Newburgh's future. The questions discussed were:

- How would you describe your vision of what Newburgh will look like as a vibrant and healthy city in which arts and culture play a major role?
- Can you describe some of the activities, facilities and programs—the action items—that you see taking place as part of this vision?

- What can be done, and who can help, to make this vision possible?

During the group breakout sessions, individual vision and action statements were written down as part of the meeting record. Breakout groups were asked to identify their top three to five vision and action items to report back to the assembled group at the end of the evening.

Discussion Summary

Vision

Meeting participants' visions of Newburgh fell into several thematic areas.

1. Community Engagement

Participants recognized the value of the arts in uniting and healing neighborhoods and communities and the importance of the arts in creating a sense of place and an identity. They stressed the need to involve everyone in the City, including all races, ethnicities and age groups, in arts activities in Newburgh.

2. Youth Involvement

Without exception, every group was adamant that ways be found to involve Newburgh's youth in the City's arts programs—whether through education or mentoring programs, through invitations to participate directly in or to organize arts activities, or through school or church programs in which youth and adults could interact through the arts.

3. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements

Every group mentioned the need to restore and improve Newburgh's physical infrastructure. They suggested this be done through the adaptive reuse of buildings to create cultural centers and through cleaning up the city and installing public art. Groups identified a need for incentives to encourage local businesses, arts organizations and artists to renovate existing buildings, as well as a need to maintain affordability to keep neighborhood communities intact. The creation of a cultural district in Newburgh and the development of a major visual or performing arts facility were also recommended.

4. Financial and Other Means of Support

As might be expected, the issue of funding was discussed in each group. Whether through direct cash grants or through the granting of tax and other incentives that encourage investment in Newburgh's infrastructure, financial support was seen as necessary. The development of arts partnerships was also

seen as key to Newburgh's success, including partnerships between arts and education institutions, other cultural institutions, community and business groups, and city government.

5. Promotion and Marketing

Participants were quick to point out that there were already a number of arts and cultural activities taking place in the City, from waterfront festivals, to monthly poetry readings to Newburgh's Last Saturday events. They recognized that promotion and marketing of art events was of major importance in getting local residents and out-of-town visitors to participate in the arts.

Action Items

In each vision area, there were many recommendations for ways in which the City could take specific action.

1. Community Engagement.

The establishment of an Office of Arts & Culture, an Arts Council or Commission, or an arts development board representing a cross section of the community was recommended by all five groups. They saw this Office or Commission serving as a primary contact point for artists and organizations in Newburgh, assisting the City in promoting and marketing the arts, and building community awareness and engagement. Some groups recommended the appointment of an arts coordinator or a "cultural czar" to help grow the arts in Newburgh. Creating places where people could congregate for cultural activities—whether indoor facilities or existing parks like Downing Park, was also seen as important.

2. Youth Involvement

The groups recommended that Newburgh's youth be actively involved in any cultural plan developed by the City. Recommendations for increasing youth involvement included developing a community center or centers as a place for youth to experience cultural activities and working with existing groups like hip hop collectives and the local School District to engage youth in the arts. Also discussed was the creation of mentoring programs, apprenticeships and other ways in which youth could actively participate in arts activities.

3. Facility and Infrastructure Improvements.

Putting existing buildings, parks and vacant lots to arts and cultural uses—for performing arts, film presentations, exhibitions, artist live/work spaces and public art—was an important theme of the evening. Groups mentioned the Ritz Theatre, buildings on Broadway, and the Dutch Reformed Church as examples of buildings that could become centers for art activities. The creation of cultural

districts as well as economic incentives for the use and improvement of the City's real estate was a key element in a number of the group discussions.

4. Financial and Other Means of Support.

Funding for arts festivals and programs, grants to artists and organizations, and incentives for building development by artists were also a priority. Other recommendations for support included the establishment of partnerships with diverse organizations including the public schools, art and design universities, arts organizations both local (Arts in Orange and Orange Arts) and regional (NYSCA), church and community groups and local business groups (the Chamber of Commerce). Meeting participants acknowledged the importance of the business aspect of the arts, including the sale of art, employment for artists, and the attraction to Newburgh of people and organizations able support such activities.

5. Promotion and marketing.

Suggestions for increasing the promotion and marketing of arts events included the creation of an arts calendar, the publishing of a free arts newsletter, the creation of artist rosters and resource directories for the arts, and the creation of a central clearinghouse (Arts Council or Commission) for arts and culture information. Improved public transportation and cleanliness were also suggested as ways in which the City could assist in the development and promotion of a vibrant arts community.

Who Can Help and How Can This Vision Happen

Key to the vision of vibrant Newburgh are the people and organizations that help make it happen—the “who” and “how” of the process. Organizations that were identified as potential supporters of the arts included the Board of Education, the Newburgh Free Library, local restaurants and other businesses, civil servants, churches, the Chamber of Commerce, Arts in Orange and Orange Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, local colleges and universities, and Federal, State and City government offices. Recognizing, honoring and supporting the efforts of individuals and organizations already working to improve the City was considered extremely important in maintaining Newburgh's current momentum.

The continuation of community meetings like the Arts and Culture Forum was also of major importance to meeting participants. Held on a regular basis, such meetings can increase communication, build bridges between diverse groups in the community, and ensure that steps are taken to implement the vision and action items discussed at this meeting.

Prepared by Sara Pasti.

The Top Vision and Action Items for All Groups

VISION STATEMENTS

Vision Statements – Group 1

- The arts stimulate the economy, and the economy stimulates the arts.
- Building community awareness is an important part of realizing success
- The arts can be used to create a sense of place and identity for a community

Vision – Group 2

- Children have examples of art everywhere so they can interact with art
- There is a community space for students to partake of / experience/ participate in cultural activities and events
- There is a plan for linking children to Newburgh's commercial galleries
- There exists an arts district from the Armory to Water and Liberty, and from 1st to Washington Heights

Vision – Group 3

- The momentum already established in Newburgh is continued to increase exposure to the arts
- The city develops and invests in its infrastructure to create art spaces
- Children are more involved in the arts

Vision Items – Group 4

- Within ten years, there are cultural centers in Newburgh to showcase the performing arts, visual arts and design, and the work of architects and artisans
- There is a major arts institution at the Dutch Reformed Church, like the Getty East, Ubizzi, North Adams and BAM
- The City has developed an inclusive and sustainable model for supporting the arts in Newburgh that taps into the City's own resources and that is accessible to youth

Vision Items – Group 5

- There is a district in Newburgh that has artists in mind, like the artists' districts in Quebec, Montreal and Tel Aviv
- Newburgh is a clean city, that supports recycling, offers sidewalk cafes and a better Broadway
- Children are more productive in the community, in music, and in the visual arts
- Newburgh has a plan that protects affordability (for living and for culture)

ACTION ITEMS

Action Items – Group 1

- Create a community center for the community
- Create cultural development areas in the city using economic incentives, e.g., favorable zoning and building codes
- Create a variety of street festival events involving poetry, music, theater and the visual arts

Action Items – Group 2

- Create an Arts Council for Newburgh
- Create incentives for live/work space for artists
- Publish a free arts newsletter of events

Action Items – Group 3

- Make meaningful connections to local colleges to open up their campuses to area artists and arts organizations
- Establish a cultural commission made up of a cross section of community members
- Create youth and adult partnerships in the arts

Action Items – Group 4

- Create and fund an Office of Arts and Culture
- Form an alliance with a design school and/or art department of a major university
- Create a diverse board of intellectuals and arts professionals to analyze the potential for a sustainable Newburgh

Action Items – Group 6

- Shore up the arts organizations and programs that Newburgh has now
- Get the Ritz Theatre up and running as a cultural center
- Renovate a building on Broadway for arts uses
- Ensure the City's continuing support for 4th Saturday events

RESULTS FROM BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS

GROUP 1

The Vision

- The architecture of the city is restored and the City has a vibrant night life
- The arts is the center of business (we need an arts center)
- Newburgh has walking paths
- All members of the community are part of the vision

- A long term commitment to the arts is developed
- Children are involved in the community center
- There is a film institute in Newburgh
- The art of students is treated professionally
- There is a bus to bring people to arts activities in Newburgh
- Neighborhoods are engaged
- The arts are used as a connector, communicator—as an orchestra or a chorus for the City
- Newburgh has multiple open air spaces
- The arts are valued for healing, to enable people to work through issues
- The arts create a sense of place, and identify community
- Broadway develops using the arts as commerce along with other businesses
- There is community awareness of the arts in Newburgh
- There are many facilities for the arts in Newburgh
- Everyone has a chance to participate
- There are arts contests for children and the community using materials provided by sponsors
- Poetry is involved in using other ways to see
- There are multiple outdoor art spaces and stages
- Children are contacted to find out what they want
- A community center exists that is truly a center for the community
- Arts activities are documented, e.g., the daVinci Race (create a link with Allentown, PA)
- Link materials exchange with cleaning blocks
- The arts are used to create an economic development initiative, both with regard to tourism and grass roots arts activities
- The arts stimulate the economy and the economy stimulates the arts
- The arts connect people internally, through mentorship programs and bringing arts to individual neighborhoods
- Students are employed as apprentices
- Public art is in all parts of the community
- Develop a “First Night” program in Newburgh that focuses on the arts

Action Steps

- Identify:
 - The community
 - Cultural centers
 - Where programs can take place
 - Where public art can be
- Develop a comprehensive plan:
 - Create neighborhood master plans (what you want your neighborhood to look like)
 - Ensure that builders participate
- Create a revolving loan fund for artists
- Create a juried community arts market on Broadway

- Begin working with children—through a hip hop collective
- Create an arts center:
 - That can interact with other departments
 - That uses “zines”—personal magazines
 - That showcases collections (bike collection)
- Create a roster of artists to connect to the schools
- Create a resource directory
- Create street festivals, a speakers’ corner, and have students involved in reporting
- Develop well-organized community gardens
- Begin one-on-one outreach to businesses
- Get a purple bus
- Create a pedestrian space in downtown where everything happens at once
- Create economic incentives for use of the City’s real estate, using codes, usage, zoning, for cultural development areas
- Create an Artist Certification Program (following the Peekskill example)
- Bring the City’s vitality back, and then sustain it
- Bring the arts to streets locally
- Investigate grants, arts funds, and hold workshops
- Invite Arts in Orange and Orange Arts’ participation in the City’s programs

Who Can Help

- The schools, by working with artists through programs that bring artists to the schools
- A central coordinator
- Community representatives
- Restaurants and other community businesses
- The police and firemen
- Churches and the clergy leadership
- Arts in Orange
- The Chamber of Commerce
- NYSCA
- A Newburgh Commission / Council on the Arts
- Mt. Saint Mary’s faculty and students
- The City of Newburgh

GROUP 2

The Vision

- There is live entertainment (theater, music) in the Liberty Street area.
- There is a place in the community for students to partake of / experience / perform cultural events and activities.
- The Downing Park Amphitheater is used for performances of all kinds, and for engaging all children
- An outlet exists for children to become engaged in the arts

- An arts district or arts neighborhood(s) is created in Newburgh
- Children are involved in the arts and in music
- Children have examples of art everywhere and allow them to interact (through buying and selling their art)—they have an audience
- The arts are de-institutionalized
- There is an interconnectivity between the artists and schools and children
- Seniors are included in the arts
- There is an arts clearinghouse
- The arts are a unifying force in the City
- There is an arts district from the Armory to Water and Liberty, and from 1st to Washington Heights that is brimming with art

Action Steps

- Create an Arts Council
- Create incentives for live/work spaces for artists
- Ensure positive PR for what is going on
- Create a central calendar (city hall)
- Publish an arts newsletter (free)
- Create a darkroom for the Glen Hines Center
- Produce a movie—use Downing Park for big-screen movies
- Sponsors film festivals and art and music festivals
- Create advertising and publicity for these events
- Contact realtors with regard to arts calendars
- Get the school district involved as a clearinghouse

Who Can Help

- Bob Cash
- Creative Funding
- The School District
- A grantswriter
- The New York State Council on the Arts
- Getting together like this more often
- Yellow Bird Gallery

GROUP 3

The Vision

- Children are more involved in the arts
- Open space is used for cultural activities / the arts are synchronized with the environment
- Spaces are created for area artists in lofts throughout the city

Action Steps

- Create group work spaces for artists in multi-use buildings
- Establish a cooperative

- Create a cultural district with Economic Development support
- Create youth / adult partnerships
- Incorporate contemporary culture into existing cultural activities in the area
- Bring in more theater arts
- Make meaningful connections with local colleges to open up their campuses to area arts organizations
- Highlight multiculturalism in arts activities
- Use the area around Washington's Headquarters for cultural and arts events
- Define public art areas
- Create in Newburgh a satellite arts enclave with studios, gallery, and performance space
- Use character buildings as art and performance venues
- Uncover the hidden treasures of Newburgh (historic sites, theaters, etc.)
- Create a cultural mecca in the City
- Develop and invest in the infrastructure to create art spaces
- Continue the momentum already established to increase exposure to the arts
- Coordinate information about existing arts activities—more publicity
- Create a city mandate to communicate and raise the consciousness of cultural needs and values to create civic pride
- Develop a communication network through the entire community, especially involving youth
- Use progressive urban planning and forward thinking in arts and architecture
- Develop partnerships for adaptive re-use of buildings
- Provide funding for multicultural art activities
- Develop stronger individual outreach to community residents
- Create a central arts and cultural clearinghouse
- Establish the position of Cultural Commissioner
- Establish a Cultural Commission made up of community members
- Provide web-based access to arts information
- Create public art facilities
- Increase media attention
- Host arts festivals
- Create a brochure—a gallery guide—for Newburgh building on Last Saturday
- Create art spaces in public facilities (colleges, libraries)
- Tie the local arts activities into the national/international arts arena
- Host cultural exchanges
- Bring in nationally recognized artists to show/work in Newburgh

GROUP 4

The Vision

- A more aesthetic Newburgh
- The City is attractive for artists

- The City has a major art institution at the Dutch Reformed Church, like the Getty East, Ubizzo, North Adams (Mass MoCA) or BAM
- There is accessibility to the arts, especially for youth
- The City has a comradery and inclusiveness
- There is a mentoring program for youth that has practical applications
- The City exists as a sustainable model that is both ecological and cultural, that taps into its own resources
- Within ten years, Newburgh has cultural centers in the performing arts, visual arts, design and architecture and for artisans

Action Steps

- Create an alliance with a design school or university art department
- Promote ownership occupancy
- Inspire pride and integrity through culture
- Honor artists
- Create a “hire an artist” program
- Create a diverse board of intellectuals and professionals to analyze the potential of a sustainable Newburgh
- Create an arts calendar
- Involve the Chamber of Commerce
- Bring art to public spaces
- Create an arts / cultural / business development board that solicits major institutions to establish themselves in Newburgh
- Locate a cultural czar to help grow the arts in Newburgh
- Re-evaluate existing building codes and enforcement to support cultural aspects of the City
- Set aside an empty lot to be used for community art collaboration, e.g., for a sculpture park or garden
- Create—and fund—an Office of Arts and Culture
- Develop children’s arts and culture programs
- Use arts and culture to build bridges within the community
- Develop a program that allows children to follow artists

Who Can Help / How Can This Vision Happen

- HUD money
- Partnerships with design and art schools
- Celebrities (like Hillary Clinton, Robert de Niro and Oprah) are invited to Newburgh
- Celebrity artists are brought into the schools for Newburgh’s youth
- Everyone in the City can help
- Our own artistic viewpoint is recognized and honored
- Support in terms of dollars and encouragement from the City, the State and the Federal Government

GROUP 5

The Vision

- A clean Newburgh, with recycling, outside cafes, and a better Broadway
- A clean City that utilizes existing buildings, especially on Liberty Street, for adaptive re-use
- All art groups working in conjunction, and with children
- The environment and the arts working hand-in-hand
- Children are more productive in the community, in music and the arts
- A professional infrastructure for employment in the arts, so NFA graduates don't have to leave the City
- There is an arts district with artists in mind, like those in Quebec, Montreal and Tel Aviv
- Newburgh celebrates and markets its diversity
- Athletes are invited to demonstrate their arts
- There are many outlets in which artists can display their gifts
- Children ages 8-18 are invited to visit artists' studios, galleries and shops
- Newburgh attracts tourists and visitors who can afford to buy art
- Local collectors buy in Newburgh, not just in New York City
- Newburgh is a welcoming and hospitable place
- Newburgh offers affordability (for living and culture)
- The City attracts crowds with outdoor street artists and performers
- Newburgh is marketed as a source for art in the region

Action Steps

- Show people the right way participate, and discover their potential
- Support a theater community
- Get the Ritz Theatre up and running as a cultural center
- Hold community activities at the Roundout—like an artists' soap box derby
- Create an artists' regatta (create a boat on-site)
- Film screenings in the City (like the old days)
- Renovate a building on Broadway for the arts
- Mix the old with the new, at affordable prices
- Kudos for using the Elks Club!
- Continue the City's support for Last Saturday Events
- Shore-up what arts Newburgh does have right now
- Encourage the humanities—for cross-pollination with arts and culture
- Exhibit traveling art shows
- Make new partnerships
- Attract all age categories to art events, including children
- Use a program like Americorps-Vista, a NYS-run free program as a source for free workers, if the program includes bringing residents out of poverty
- Create a non-profit group to fundraise for, and fund, the arts

- Use the arts to bring us together, to give us a sense of self-worth and belonging
- Don't bring in outsiders to fix an inside problem
- Support the establishment of new venues
- Use 90 Broadway, right across from the Ritz
- Develop the area to be an arts hub
- Overcome the out-of-town competitors that have better reputations
- Support a night life in Newburgh, with art during the day and performances after dinner
- Stop visitors from leaving in reaction to their first impression, their first look
- Support events that attract a mix of races

Who Can Help / How Can This Vision Happen

- The Newburgh Board of Education (include in future forums)
- The Newburgh Free Library, which has events every week
- A good Economic Development person, for marketing the arts
- A Business Improvement District, to help support the economics of arts entrepreneurship
- Mt. St. Mary's College, which has two theaters, including the Desmond
- Improved transportation into and within Newburgh
- Mass transit for Last Saturdays, with an established route and schedules
- Bring all the partners to the table

**CITY OF NEWBURGH
ARTS & CULTURE FORUM
EVALUATION RESPONSES
FROM MEETING ATTENDEES**

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONSES: 50

How would you rate this meeting as a useful first step in beginning a cultural planning process for Newburgh?

Excellent	34	"Good turnout, good spirit & energy, participation."
Very Good	12	
Adequate	1	
No Response	3	

If you did not think this meeting was useful, why not?

"More people from the School District should have been invited."
 "More people should have been invited."
 "Needs a goals section that is achievable."
 "For future: smaller group, longer time to flesh out ideas."
 "Difficult to make artists focus."
 "The meeting was helpful."
 "Need more time."
 "Couldn't stay. I didn't know how long it was."

Would you be interested in learning about what is being done in other cities and how similar programs could be developed in Newburgh?

Yes	44
No	0
Possibly	6
No Response	6

What would encourage you to participate in future arts and culture planning meetings?

"City officials maintain momentum, which I believe requires ongoing periodic public communications and events. Create, maintain and use database of artists, entities and resources (i.e., Ritz Theatre)."
 "Keeping me informed of future activities."
 "If, after this meeting, there is some action taken, I will most definitely be present at future meetings."
 "Call me. I'll come running..."
 "To continue the energy and the brainstorming necessary to implement goal setting."
 "An invitation!!!"
 "Funding!"

"Progress/movement regarding ideas presented here."
 "Specific action steps."
 "Blatant, pro-active motion, action and/or participation in the very near future, based on this forum. Tangible evidence that this meeting/forum has made a difference. Perhaps some mention at City Council/County-level public meetings."
 "Name of place, date and time! More meetings, more frequently, so the ideas do not die."
 "Let's hear from the artists! Who is the 'central coordinator?'"
 "Progress."
 "Progress and support of the City of Newburgh. More activities for youth."
 "Just call!"
 "Include the humanities in the definition of 'arts and culture."
 "I will come to any meeting, but a commission must be developed."
 "More of them!"
 "Substantive implementation of one Action Plan that all 5 groups agreed is necessary. Newburgh government-supported Arts Commission."
 "Any talk and action to better Newburgh."
 "Leadership!"
 "To build community awareness---"
 "Action---."
 "Continued planning with outcome."
 "Arts board/commission."
 "Demonstration of serious intentions."
 "Conciseness, organization, strong, focused facilitation."
 "Concrete reviews of how other cities have done this."
 "More music programs."
 "Personal invite of member of committee."
 "Just keep me informed."
 "Action that would help the local children and artists in the area—not just talk!"
 "I was a last minute invitee—need earlier announcement of meetings."
 "An invite."
 "Consistent meeting schedule. Newburgh ownership and decision-making. Fair opportunities for all—not just the wealthy."
 "Have a specific focus using info/ideas generated tonight."

What would you like to see future meetings accomplish?

"Concrete, incremental implementation; Coordinate with City School District, OCCC, Library, Arts Council, local unions, Lycean Theatre, West Point, SUNY, Mt. St. Mary's College, and other groups. Recruit and retain enthusiastic participants and artists."
 "More clearly defining the vision identified tonight."
 "Comment after the future meeting."
 "Realization of visions and plans."
 "Movement toward making the goals become a reality!"
 "Vision→Mission→Goals→Action Plan."
 "Create 'Newburgh Office of Art & Culture,' a paid entity of the City of Newburgh."
 "I would like to see more of the stakeholders within our community present...i.e., College Presidents and college students, School Principals, young people from all regions of our city, politicians, business reps, etc."
 "Creation of a Newburgh Arts Commission."
 "Updates and implementations of actions and ideas from previous meetings."

"Risk-taking' without breaking the rules. Accomplish a college/youth component. What is already available as Newburgh's 'attractions?' Pluralism in the arts! Newburgh's resources: What, Who and Where are they? Keep the vision going! Hispanic vision? Educational component." /

"An art - free world / more expression/poetry, art, dance."

"Putting plans in motion." /

"A plan."

"More of the same."

"3 Visions; 3 Actions."

"Prioritize and solidify action items and master plan to accomplish goals. Identify role of City and community in forming an "arts commission"—process, funding and resources. Identify the spaces most conducive for the arts: performances, exhibits, education, live/work spaces, indoor and outdoor."

"Arts funding; small business funding."

"Action."

"Continue planning with outcome."

"Make the action items work!"

"Specific public art programs to be discussed."

"Something we can work with."

"Results."

"The goals met."

"The establishment of an Arts Development Association that meets monthly in a café or restaurant, like the Newburgh Development Association."

"Smaller task force groups to deal with each specific area, with responsibilities clearly established."

"Solid plans to work on with the community."

"Unfortunately I had to leave at 6:45PM. I was unaware that the meeting was scheduled to go until 9PM. I would like to be involved but want to see what this is all about before I commit."

"Real, tangible results."

"Develop Art & Culture Commission that will act independently of government but could raise funds and write grants. Get a building or section of city devoted to the arts theme."

"Establish a commission (not too big) and give them a mandate to pursue a limited number of prioritized goals."